

to spend more money but from where he believes we should take it.

BOSNIA

Mrs. HUTCHISON. The second point I want to make, Mr. President, and it is very much in the forefront right now, and that is the situation where the President has asked for our support to send troops to Bosnia.

Mr. President, I do not think we should send troops to Bosnia, and I do not feel that the President has made the case, made the difference, shown the difference, between a national interest and a national security interest that would warrant the loss of our precious American lives.

Our young American men and women that signed up to be in the military did sign up knowing that they might be put in harm's way. They did that willingly because they believed that they should be able and willing and ready to fight for our freedom, and to protect the freedom and strength of the United States of America.

There is one thing implicit, Mr. President, in that decision. That is that we would have the judgment to send them where our national security interest was at stake. I do not think our national security interest is at stake, Mr. President.

That is why I am so strongly urging that the President reconsider, that the President look at what is happening right now. People talking about changing the agreement in Paris that has been already initialed in Dayton; Serbs talking about not thinking Americans are neutral in this; talking about throwing rocks at Americans when they come in.

Mr. President, can we be thinking of the security of those troops as we are wondering if this is a national security issue that should warrant the loss of their lives? Mr. President, I do not think the case has been made.

I am going to fight it in every way that I can. I think we have other options to support the people of Bosnia. I do want to support those people. They have suffered greatly. I want to help them. There are many ways that we can.

I do not think American troops on the ground should be the only test to show that we are committed to the people of Bosnia. We are committed. We can show it in many other ways.

I want to keep our troops home. I want to save our troops for when there is a security threat to the United States.

We can go out and help the people of the world who are not as fortunate as we are, and we are a generous people and we will do that. But giving our lives in those causes is not what I think is necessary, nor is it the responsible role of Congress to let it happen. I yield the floor.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 10 minutes in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, obviously the issue of Bosnia has the attention of America, as it well should because American soldiers are being put in harm's way. We as a nation should equally focus on the issue of these negotiations that are going on between Congress and the President over how we reach a balanced budget, because as our soldiers are in harm's way in the immediate sense, as they move into Bosnia, our Nation is clearly in harm's way as a result of the continued deficits which we run and the fact that we are putting our children's future at risk by presenting them with a nation that is bankrupt if we do not get under control our national debt.

So I think it is important to review where we stand and try to reflect on what the two sides present. Where we stand is that about a week and a half ago, this Nation's Government essentially came to a standstill, stopped, because we could not agree on whether or not we should reach a balanced budget.

The Republicans had put forward a balanced budget bill and we passed it. It says that we should reach a balanced budget in 7 years. That is not an excessively short amount of time. In fact, it is probably too much time. We should probably be reaching a balanced budget sooner. But we agreed to 7 years because we felt that was something that could be attained and which was reasonable.

The administration, the President specifically, had said, over a period of time, they were for a balanced budget also. He said specifically he was for a balanced budget, at one time in 5 years. He had said he was for a balanced budget in 6 years. He had said he was for a balanced budget in 7 years. He had said he was for a balanced budget in 8 years. He had said he was for a balanced budget in 9 years. And he had said he was for a balanced budget in 10 years. We chose 7 years. We thought that was right about in the middle of the different proposals he had put forward and we hoped he would be comfortable with it.

As a result of the closure of the Government, there was an agreement finally reached and the administration has now stated they are committed to balancing the budget in 7 years and that they are committed to doing that using, as an independent scoring agency to determine the fairness and accuracy of the numbers, the Congressional Budget Office. That is a major step forward, obviously, in the process.

It is unfortunate that it took a shutdown of the Government to accomplish that. We, as Republicans, remember, were willing to go forward to reach a balanced budget. We had actually passed the resolution to accomplish that with specifics, without requiring

that the Government be shut down. It was the administration which would not come to the table until there was a Government shutdown, which would not agree to a balanced budget until there was a Government shutdown.

So, as we move into the process of revising the history books, which always seems to occur after events take place, let us remember that Republicans had already committed to a 7-year balanced budget prior to the shutdown and that the shutdown—the outcome of the shutdown was that the administration also agreed to a 7-year balanced budget. So, something was accomplished by the shutdown. It was unfortunate it was necessary. But what was accomplished was that this administration finally settled on a number, 7 years, for a balanced budget. Now we proceed with the negotiations as to how we get there.

I have to say, I have been watching these negotiations, as I suspect many of us have—although we have been distracted, clearly, by the Bosnia situation—and I have become concerned because, while we have put forward a plan, the Republicans have put forward a plan which is very specific and which in real terms accomplishes what is necessary to get this country's fiscal house in order so we will be passing on to our children a nation which is financially solvent rather than a Nation that is bankrupt, we have, as yet, seen nothing from the administration in terms of specifics.

Where is their budget plan that gets us to balance? We have ours on the table—3,000 pages. In fact, the other side of the aisle had great entertainment, making fun of the length of our proposal. It is a lengthy proposal because it is a specific proposal and a real proposal. What we need to see from the administration are specifics as to how they wish to get to a balanced budget. It is very difficult, I suspect, for those negotiating in this process to be negotiating without one side being willing to come forward and say what they are willing to do.

So I think it is incumbent on the folks who follow this process, recognizing we are all a bit distracted, and rightly so, by what is happening in Bosnia and the immediate threat to our American soldiers—but, even in the context of that I think it is incumbent upon all of us in this country to be asking the question, "How does this President intend to get to a balanced budget in 7 years? What are his proposals?"

We saw his budget that he sent up here in June. That was a 10-year budget. It did not get to balance. In fact it had deficits of \$200 billion for the entire 10-year period, each year for the 10-year period. For this administration to get to balance, they must come forward with proposals which slow the rate of Federal spending by approximately \$750 billion over the next 7 years. We have come forward with proposals that do that. Where are the administration proposals?